

**ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD**

Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Fred Lierman at 6:01 PM.

Members Present

Mr. Fred Lierman, Chairman
Mr. George Zawislak, Vice Chairman
Mr. Dock Ward
Mr. Leland Carlson
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205
Mr. Vince McLean, Rockford Mass Transit District
Mr. Gary McIntyre, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Officer William Jacobson, Rockford Police Department
Mr. Mark Marinaro, Rockford Fire Department
Mr. Todd Cagnoni, Community Development Department
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

Members Absent

Alderman Doug Mark, 3rd Ward

Also Present

Mrs. Rachel Walters Stefanini, 1517 Quincy Street, 61103
Mr. Gino Stefanini, 1517 Quincy Street, 61103
Mr. Gary Garab, 2302 Fremont Street, 61103
Paul Blandel, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Ms. Darcy Dunn, 4065 Berkshire Way, Rockton, 61072

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on October 10, 2012, were approved as submitted.

The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:

1. Request in 3rd Ward from Rachel Walters Stefanini, 1517 Quincy Street, 61103, to establish an all-way stop control at the intersection of Court Street and Quincy Street. (Mrs. Stefani discussed that there is a history of accidents and that neighborhood has signed a petition for traffic control. Commission discussed that there does not appear to be sight distance issues and that there are stop signs a block away on three of the four legs. Commission discussed that it appeared that people could not figure out who has the right of way. F. Lierman discussed that intersection does not meet traffic splits for a four way stop and the issues with installing unwarranted stop sign. Commission discussed that yield sign would establish who has right of way. Commission discussed leaving parking in front Nicolson Garden Store. Commission recommended Quincy Street yielding for Court Street. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by G. McIntyre. Voted 10-0)

2. Request in 12th ward from Gary Garab, 2302 Fremont St., 61103 to establish a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the north side of Van Wie Avenue between Latham Street and Fremont Street from 10 feet west of alley to 20 feet east of alley. (Mr. Garab discussed he has an issue seeing down Latham Street when vehicles are parked close to alley entrance. He stated that he needed to relocate his fence for vision triangle issues and he would like the vision triangle addressed on the city right of way. J. Carter stated that the city ordinance did not give direction on keeping the vision triangle open at the intersection of road and alleys. Mr. Garab presented pictures of vehicles parked near the alley. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on the north side of Van Wie Avenue between Latham Street and Fremont Street from 10 feet west of alley to 20 feet east of alley. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 9-1)
3. Request in the 13th Ward from Rockford Mass Transit District to establish a Midblock Pedestrian Crossing on Mulberry Street approximately 140 feet east of North Winnebago Street. Laid over from the October 2012 Traffic Commission meeting. (J. Carter discussed that this item was laid over to ensure that ADA ramps could be built and that he believes they can. RMTD discussed once again that they wanted the crossing for handicap patron to cross directly to their front door. Commission discussed payment for the ADA ramps. Commission discussed that parking spaces would need to be removed as part of establishing mid-block crossing. Commission recommended establishing a Midblock Pedestrian Crossing on Mulberry Street approximately 140 feet east of North Winnebago Street and removing on parking space on either side of crossing. Also, that if funding cannot be found, the crossing would not be established. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 10-0)
4. Request in the 6th Ward from City Staff to establish a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on both sides of Linden Court from Linden Road north to cul-de-sac. (Commission discussed that this item had been on agenda a few months earlier and no action was taken at the request of City Police and since then the problem had worsen and Police were now asking for the parking restriction to be reconsidered. Pictures were shown of the semis and trailers parked on the public road. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on both sides of Linden Court from Linden Road north to cul-de-sac. Motion by T. Cagnoni, seconded by J. Carter. Voted 10-0)
5. Request in the 1st Ward from LaVerne Gregg, 1353 S. Trainer Rd., 61108 to establish a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on both sides of South Trainer Road from Sandalwood Close to Laurelwood Drive. (J. Carter discussed that this would create a no-parking zone from Newburg Road to Laurelwood Drive. He also discussed that that there were many surveys returned about this issue and that they overwhelmingly supported removing the parking on the street. Commission recommended establishing a “No Parking Any Time” restriction on both sides of South Trainer Road from Sandalwood Close to Laurelwood Drive. Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 10-0)

The Traffic Commission recommended taking “No Action” on the following items:

1. Request in 10th Ward from Fairview School to repeal the existing traffic control and replace with all-stop control at the intersection of Fairview Avenue and Harney Court. (Ms. Dunn discussed parking and safety issue around Fairview School. She discussed she feels it is unsafe for children to cross at the intersection due to children’s height, Fairview traffic volume and distracted driving. J. Carter discussed why a crossing guard is not warranted under existing rules. Commission discussed that this is not first time this item has been discussed, and that previously the parking on the west side of the street was removed. Commission discussed that a multi-way stop would not be warranted and may lead to a false sense of confidence. Commission discussed the possibility removing parking on the east side of Fairview Avenue. Commission discussed this could lead to worsening of the problem. Commission recommended No Action on all items. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by M. Marinaro. Voted 8-1, 1 abstention).
2. Request in the 2nd and 3rd Ward from Jarrett Morlan, 1525 Chelsea Avenue, 61107, to repeal the existing traffic control of Brendenwood Road stopping for Chelsea Avenue, and replace with all-way stop control at the intersection of Brendenwood Road and Chelsea Avenue. Laid over from the July 2012 Traffic Commission meeting. (J. Carter discussed that the item was laid over to allow for the traffic counts to be done during school year. Commission discussed accident history and possible sight distance issues. Commission discussed that the traffic splits did not meet warrants for multi-way stop. Commission recommended No Action on all items. Motion by G. Zawislak, seconded by G. Zawislak. Voted 10-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by D. Ward

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:

January 9, 2013 6:00 PM.

Rockford City Hall
425 East State Street
2nd floor, Conference Room A

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Carter
Recording Secretary